

air conditioner on as much as we do or whether we turn it off when we are going to leave for the weekend.

The second thing that it does is, the real problem in California is they just did not build enough power plants. They grew their economy, they grew the population considerably and figured that they would import the power from other places. If you put on price caps and you create huge uncertainty in the industry, nobody is going to go in and say, Yeah, I'm going to take my savings; I'm going to invest in a new power plant, if you do not know whether you are going to be able to recover your investment. So it does not solve the real problem, which is supply. A price cap does not produce one more kilowatt of electricity.

Then the other thing I think it would cause is the reality now that California is dependent on importing electricity from much of the West, including the State of New Mexico. If you put on price caps, you will not be able to buy some power, because people will not sell it to you if they have to sell it to you at a loss. We could make this so much worse. I do not understand why there are still some in the Congress who think the right answer is for us to legislate the price of power. It would be a disaster for California, for the West.

I am glad the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission took the steps that it did, and in fact I was one of the 17 Members of this House that signed a letter asking them to pursue this strategy, a market-based strategy of price mitigation. But really we need to shift and focus on the long-term policies that we need. I do believe that we need a balanced and long-term policy. It has got to include conservation, both conservation by individuals but also the government in systemic efforts that we need. If I go to Baillio's, which is our appliance store, if I do not have a choice of an energy-efficient refrigerator, then I really cannot conserve in that way. There are some things that government must do to make sure that conservation works and that it is not just my decision to turn on or off my lights, but a decision and an encouragement to invest in efficient lighting systems by industries or, for example, the Building America program I mentioned.

The interesting thing about the Building America program and the way that it has changed the building of homes is it is not just adding another layer of insulation in the attic, which we have done that, too. It is the changing the design of the home, starting from the ground up, on making it energy efficient. The savings are just incredible. That is really important for first-time buyers who are looking at how much can they cover on their mortgage, how much house can they get for their money. If the cost of maintaining that house is maybe 10 or 15 or \$20 lower, that can go to a mortgage payment rather than to the electric bill. So building from the ground up is very important.

Those are things that we can encourage and do through government. We have got to increase supply, no question about that, in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The gentleman mentioned it, and I think it is worth repeating, 55 percent of America's oil comes from outside the United States. The fastest growing supplier of oil to America, and the number six supplier to America, is Iraq.

Most folks do not know that Saddam Hussein probably has more impact on American gas prices than any of us would wish to admit. I noticed an article in the paper on Monday, they are reconsidering sanctions on Iraq. And not a surprise, every time they do that at the United Nations, Iraq decides that it is going to turn off its spigot and tell the rest of the world that they have us by the short hairs. I do not want to be by the short hairs with Saddam Hussein, which means we need to reduce our foreign dependence on single sources of supply so that when one individual dictator says, Well, I'm turning off the spigot, we have other sources, we are not over a barrel, that our energy policy is not just going on bended knee to other governments and begging for oil. That is not a policy. That is a plea. We should not put ourselves in that situation.

So we have got to have conservation, we have got to have exploration, we have got to build our infrastructure and take care of some of the infrastructure problems that we have, and we need real government reform. I think that that is the recipe for a stable, long-term policy for energy independence in this country. I appreciate the gentleman's efforts to bring this session to the House.

Mr. EHLERS. That was an excellent summary of what we have been trying to convey this evening. I thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico for her comments.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2216, and that the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations also may insert tabular data and other extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 877 AND H.R. 1198

Mr. TOWNS (during the special order of Mr. EHLERS). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 877 and H.R. 1198.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIAN OF THE CENTURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge West Virginia Day, at least for the 1 hour left in today, and the West Virginian of the Century, U.S. Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, whose accomplishments will last forever. 138 years ago, on June 20, 1863, West Virginia became the 35th State in the Union. Over those 138 years, our State has been blessed with many great statesmen and women, but last month at the State capitol in Charleston, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD was appropriately honored as West Virginian of the Century by a proclamation from our West Virginia Governor, Bob Wise, and resolutions from the West Virginia House of Delegates and the West Virginia Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the remarks of Senator BYRD on that occasion.

REMARKS BY SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD, "WEST VIRGINIAN OF THE 20TH CENTURY," MAY 31, 2001

West Virginia, how I love you!

Every streamlet, shrub and stone,  
Even the clouds that flit above you  
Always seem to be my own.

Your steep hillsides clad in grandeur,  
Always rugged, bold and free,  
Sing with ever swelling chorus:  
Montani, Semper, Liberi!

Always free! The little streamlets,  
As they glide and race along,  
Join their music to the anthem  
And the zephyrs swell the song.

Always free! The mountain torrent  
In its haste to reach the sea,  
Shouts its challenge to the hillsides  
And the echo answers "FREE!"

Always free! Repeats the river  
In a deeper, fuller tone  
And the West wind in the treetops  
Adds a chorus all its own.

Always Free! The crashing thunder,  
Madly flung from hill to hill,  
In a wild reverberation  
Makes our hearts with rapture fill.  
Always free! The Bob White whistles  
And the whippoorwill replies,  
Always free! The robin twitters  
As the sunset gilds the skies.

Perched upon the tallest timber,  
Far above the sheltered lea,  
There the eagle screams defiance  
To a hostile world: "I'm free!"

And two million happy people,  
Hearts attuned in holy glee,  
Add the hallelujah chorus:  
"Mountaineers are always free!"

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Governor Wise, my fellow West Virginians, ladies and gentlemen:

Now in my 84th year, I look back over the ups and downs of a long and full and active life. I see a vastly changed world from what it was when I walked the dirt roads of Wolf Creek Hollow in Mercer County and studied in a two-room schoolhouse. The nation has grown from 102 million when I was born in